

Secondhand Smoke

Massachusetts Fact Sheet

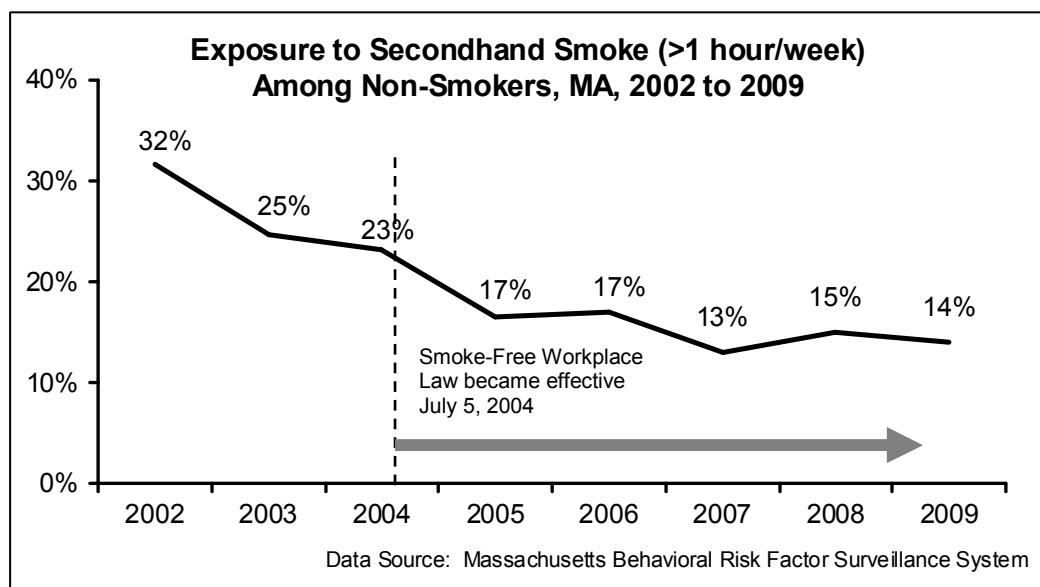
In Massachusetts, about 15% of households with children allow smoking in their home. This means that about 200,000 children in Massachusetts are not protected from secondhand smoke in their own home.¹

More than 500,000 (14%) adult nonsmokers in Massachusetts are exposed secondhand smoke in the home, at work, or in other places more than one hour per week.¹

Secondhand smoke contains at least 250 chemicals known to be toxic, including more than 50 that can cause cancer.²

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control report that secondhand smoke causes sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory infections, ear problems, and more frequent and severe asthma attacks in children.³

Nonsmokers who are exposed to secondhand smoke at home or work increase their heart disease risk by 25–30% and their lung cancer risk by 20–30%.³



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Data Sources

¹ Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Tobacco Control Program. Data based on the Massachusetts Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2009.

² National Toxicology Program. 11th Report on Carcinogens, 2005. (PDF-219KB) Research Triangle Park, NC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Sciences, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, 2000 [cited 2006 Sep 27]. Available from: <http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/ntp/roc/eleventh/profiles/s176toba.pdf>.

³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006 [cited 2006 Sep 27]. Available from: <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/secondhandsmoke/report/>.

